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THE MENACE

ESTABLISHED APRIL 15, 1911. THIS IS NUMBER 205
AURORA, MISSOURI MARCH 27, 1915



Total subscriptions previously reported 1,423,276
New subscriptions last week 19,620
Subscriptions expiring last week 18,888
Gain for the week 1,638
Total Number Subscriptions this date
1,423,311

Attorney Will Go to Rome to Take Pope's Deposition in Menace Case

THE Free Press Defense League proposes to meet the Roman Hierarchy upon its own ground. Before the case against The Menace comes to trial it will have in Rome an attorney to take the deposition of Pope Benedict XV, his cardinals and officials of the papal state.

The League does this to demonstrate that the millions of loyal, truth-loving Catholics (against whom neither the League nor any of the publications attacked by the hierarchy has a word to say) have been imposed upon and oppressed, to an even greater extent than have the non-Catholics whom the politicians of Rome hate.

The Free Press Defense League is making no fight upon the Catholic church. It is only defending itself against the attacks of the Catholic politicians. The hierarchy has issued its ultimatum:

No newspaper which dares to criticize the Catholic hierarchy shall live.

In reply to that ultimatum the League proposes to go to the very fountain head of Catholic authority and challenge "eternal Rome" to tell whether the pope and his cardinals approve of this and other oppressive measures and practices existing under the cloak of religion.

The Free Press Defense League came into existence at the demand of thousands of liberty-loving Americans who have demanded an organization through which they could protect institutions and principles dear to them. Having seen the hand of Rome stretched forth to throttle the press, pervert the schools, and abridge our religious liberties, they have asked for an instrument through which they, as soldiers of the common good, may be of service.

In answer to the ultimatum of the Roman hierarchy and to the demand of lovers of liberty everywhere, the Free Press Defense League is in the field.

In the course of the case against The Menace, the League proposes to send its attorneys to Rome to take the depositions of Pope Benedict XV and his immediate advisers.

There is an issue of veracity between The Menace and other outspoken publications on one side and the Catholic political hierarchy on the other. Somebody has lied. Either The Menace and like publications have maligned and libeled the Catholic politicians, or these same politicians have maligned and libeled The Menace and newspapers of its kind.

It is the age-old issue.

It arose when the fagots were lighted for the first heretic.

It echoed when, under papal authority, the Spanish Inquisition began its horrible career of nameless tortures and multitudinous slaughters.

It reverberated when a pope sold Ireland to a foreign prince and thereby took from the Irish people the liberties they have failed to recover even unto this day.

It shrieked above the blood and tears that marked the death of 100,000 French, who perished by Jesuit swords and swords that Jesuits had blessed on the day of the massacre of St. Bartholomew.

For nearly 2,000 years Christendom has wondered and shuddered at these horrors in the name of religion. For nearly 2,000 years it has asked itself the real, inner, hidden meaning of these things.

The answer lies locked in the archives of the vatican at Rome. Within those mysterious precincts which only the princes of the church are permitted to haunt, are the keys to a thousand mysteries.

There the Catholic political hierarchy, for the preservation of which the priests are forbidden to marry and raise up heirs, has its fountain head. What occurs behind those walls none but the pope and his cardinals know. No protestant eye has seen, no impartial ear has heard what has passed there. Nor is any government on earth, save that of the pope, recognized there.

There, surrounded by mystery, is the head of a political power that reaches forth into all nations, which heeds neither the wishes nor the welfare of any people, but serves only its own ends.

This power has been indicted at the bar of public opinion in many lands for nearly 2,000 years. It has been charged with being the arch murderer of all the ages.

It has been accused of crimes unspeakable.

IS IT GUILTY?

Are these charges that have been brought with increasing frequency for more than eighteen centuries, but the ever-recurring lie of malicious envy?

OR ARE THEY TRUE?

If the politicians who control the temporal destinies of the church of Rome wish to acquit themselves, they are going to have the opportunity. They'll be given the opportunity anyway.

The Menace has made hundreds of specific charges against the pope and his politicians. If these charges are lies, Benedict XV has within reach of his hand the records of centuries which will disprove them and set them at rest for all time.

Pope Benedict has it within his power, if the Catholic hierarchy is innocent, to acquit his organization of indictments for murder and worse, under which it has winced for all these centuries. The head of an innocent institution would embrace the opportunity to clear its skirts.

The world waits to know the truth. The Free Press Defense League will make it possible for the truth to be learned. It will cost the pope and his advisers nothing to obtain a clean bill of health if they are entitled to it.

THE FREE PRESS DEFENSE LEAGUE IS EVEN WILLING TO GIVE THEM TIME TO PREPARE THEIR SIDE OF THE CASE

It here and now serves notice upon Pope Benedict XV, his College of Cardinals, his Secretary of State and other officials of the vatican, that before the trial of the case against The Menace, Attorneys for the league will be in Rome to take the depositions of the heads of the Catholic church, including the pope, upon the issues involved in this case.

If the Catholic church can clear its skirts of the charges of unspeakable crimes from the days of the inquisition until the present time, let the heads of the church produce the vatican records and give depositions in the case against The Menace.

Persecution of The Menace Penalty for Defense of American Liberties

Previous Utterances of This Publication Disclose Real Motive of the Roman Hierarchy in Seeking to Destroy It

All matter on this page is prepared by the Free Press Defense League. All communications concerning such matter should be sent the Free Press Defense League, Ft. Scott, Kas.

FROM one end of the land to the other goes up the jubilant cry of the Roman political hierarchy that it is in a fair way to suppress THE MENACE and other fearless publications issued by various churches, Masonic bodies and individual lovers of liberty.

They boast now—but already the battle is going against them. The champions of fair play are rallying.

Upon one side of this battle for the freedom of the press is concealment, evasion and mystery. On the other, there has been only the sunlight of publicity. Behind the solemn cloak of the mystery with which the Catholic church surrounds itself, the Catholic hierarchy, bent upon the destruction of THE MENACE and some fifty other fearless publications, have retired.

THE EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE MENACE HAVE NOTHING TO CONCEAL ALL THAT THEY DO OR HAVE DONE IS PRINTED IN BOLD TYPE IN THEIR PUBLICATION FOR 6,000,000 FREEMEN TO READ.

But lest we forget what manner of men it is that the Catholic politicians have sought to destroy, let

us forget in what spirit they have gone about their Herculean and thankless task of forcing the Catholic hierarchy to pay more attention to religion and less to politics. *The Free Press Defense League*, making use of this page of *THE MENACE*, causes a brief review of the record of *THE MENACE* to be made.

THE MENACE began its career with a high purpose. It has lived to that purpose—how well it has done so, you may judge by the desperate efforts of the Catholic politicians to end its existence. What that high purpose was, let this "Salutatory," published in the first column of the first page of the first issue of *THE MENACE* tell:

THE MENACE was not begun in a capricious spirit, far from it, but with a profound conviction that a very grave and portentous menace confronts the American people, that needs to be given publicity.

The threatening danger to American institutions, a free church, a free press, a free school, the right of private judgment in the matter of conscience—these the Roman Church subordinate to the authority of its hierarchy.

We have many Catholic friends, whose friendship is of long standing. We have kept the peace by refraining from discussing religion or politics. We have always said to them you have your rights in these matters and I have mine. With this understanding we shake hands and go on our way.

The private, humble communicant in the Catholic church has no choice what he is to believe—it is for him to obey the voice of the Church.

THE MENACE takes issue with this voice and not with the communicant;

with the authorities that direct and not the man or woman who feels compelled to obey.

THE MENACE, therefore enters a legitimate field of criticism open to all whether he be Catholic, Protestant, Greek or Jew, Mohammedan or Free-thinker.

If the Catholic church is a menace to American liberty and free institutions, the people ought to know it, especially the Catholic members.

The only freedom that is worth having at all is that which the Christ announced when he said, "and the truth shall make you free."

Is there wrath and venom in these words?

Is this the utterance of men who ponder to the vicious in their fellow beings, or is this the straightforward challenge of lovers of freedom who propose to do battle with all their might against an enemy of the common good?

The words of this "Salutatory," the tone and the spirit of each issue of *THE MENACE* give answer. *THE MENACE* fought for freedom; therefore, by the Catholic hierarchy, it was condemned to die.

And if there still be doubt as to why *THE MENACE* is hated by Roman politicians with a consuming hate, if there be doubt still as to its high purpose, let this utterance, under the title, "Our Platform and Our Mission," speak:

"To enter into no entangling alliances" has been a safe policy for our country for many years. This policy is *THE MENACE's* safety and success.

Every effort has been undertaken to make *THE MENACE* a mouthpiece for some special religious interpretation of the scripture, history, or philosophy; the official organ of some society, party or leader. But in every case *THE MENACE* has refused alliance, refused financial aid by loans or gifts to enlarge and control the paper, refused to come under the yoke no matter how tempting or powerful the individual or parties may have been.

We have kept the faith and come clean.

What, then, is the plan and purpose and platform of *THE MENACE*? It is easily told:

OPPOSITION TO POLITICAL ROMANCE, THIS AND THIS ALONE, AND

our brief history and wonderful success in securing a national hearing is ample justification.

There is but one international and national enemy to civilization and free governments.

Witness the long struggle of this Roman Catholic political power with Germany, Holland, England, Scotland, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, France, Portugal, Belgium and Italy.

All these have practically freed themselves from the grip of the beast, Rome, with awful scars, while others are fighting with bleeding wounds and desperate struggle.

Behold the decadent nations in which the pope is supreme with growing signs of a conflict, to-wit: Austria, Spain, Ireland—partially, Mexico, South American States, Central American States. Shall we add America—God forbid!

No man with the slightest knowledge of history or of current politics, both at home and abroad, can fail to see that there is need of *THE MENACE*—urgent need to save America from the deadly peril of Romanism, walking softly in our midst and parring like a panther ready for the spring.

We may save the nation from much blood and tears:

By forewarning the people,
By uncovering the enemy's attack,
By interpreting the signs of the times in the light of history,
By creating public sentiment,
By waking up the drowsy citizens,
By calling to the sleepy city and uttering the midnight cry.

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," in America as never before, because the enemy has already captured Washington and is moving on from its entrenched position to the conquest of the states.

Give one reason why, if you can, that America is not to suffer the blight of Roman politics founded on the "DIVINE RIGHT OF THE POPE" AS A RULER OF NATIONS, as interpreted by the nations listed above, in actual conflict today—struggling for supremacy. You have no answer. See the alignment:

The pope against the people.
Autocracy against democracy.
Are you anxious and willing for us to go through the sweat of blood and suffering endured by all the nations?

Why is this country to be exempt? Tell us and *THE MENACE* will quit. The only peace with this world power

is abject surrender. Are you ready to haul down your flag?

This is no time to dally with your music and your wine.

This is no time to discuss religions, or theories, or politics, or wear out our lives scraping together pennies for our children, when democracy and free institutions are being assailed from within—and the spy sits in security at our bedside, ready to burn our dwelling.

THE MENACE can only cry out and spare not.

You are our friend if you are lined up in THIS FIGHT.

That was a good motto uttered by patriots of another day:

"WE KNOW NOTHING BUT OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD."

We suspect every man who is not in step with the mighty army gathering to the conflict against political Rome.

Your name, your religion, your politics, your party, your class, is nothing to *THE MENACE*, unless you are committed as the everlasting foe, to the political machinations of the Roman hierarchy, the deadliest menace to free institutions and civilization.

We are gripped with this tremendous, age-long issue, and nothing but cowardly surrender can break faith with the immortals who died to make men free.

There is as little mystery about the men behind *THE MENACE* as there is about sunshine. While their critics have screened their acts in the manifold ways that Rome knows, the editors and publishers have lived in the open, in a little town of less than 5,000 people, "where you know everybody and everybody knows you and your business is everybody's business, and you're glad of it."

W. F. Phelps, one of the publishers, and the President of *The Free Press Defense League*, has been in the newspaper business in Aurora for a number of years. His life has been the publications he has issued—open to all men. It was he who had the courage to conceive the plan for *THE MENACE* and he who, with a partner, staked their all upon the proposition that the love of liberty is not yet dead in America and that the American people will uphold the hands of him who dares to

break a lance in the name of freedom, fair play and justice. B. M. Phelps, a nephew of W. F. Phelps, and former business manager of *THE MENACE*, was formerly a traveling salesman. Courage seems to run in the Phelps family, and B. M. Phelps quit a lucrative position to take up the battle with his uncle.

Marvin Brown was a printer and a newspaper man with convictions. Those convictions, and good old Southern fighting blood (Brown was born in Tennessee), brought this young man up from Oklahoma to Aurora to join *THE MENACE* staff. He became managing editor and a fighting unit in *THE MENACE* organization.

When one considers the fire and the courage of the Reverend Theodore C. Walker, editor of *THE MENACE*, one is bound to speak reverently. Past the allotted three-score years and ten, the Reverend Mr. Walker, reaping the benefits of a life spent in simple, loving service of his kind, is more active than many men thirty years his junior. And the same fervor that sent him as a young man to fight for the preservation of the Union, the same fire which drove him into the ministry to labor for the saving of souls, burns in the work he has been doing for political, religious and educational freedom in the columns of *THE MENACE*.

These are the men who, because of their blows for liberty, Rome has marked for punishment.

Some Can Contribute Much, Others But Little, Every One Can Contribute Something and Have Part in This Great Work—The Preservation of a Free Press, Free Schools and a Free Church. Send Your Contribution and Application for Membership to the Free Press Defense League, Ft. Scott, Kas., Today. Use the Blank Below:

(Cut out and mail this coupon with your contribution TODAY)

THE FREE PRESS DEFENSE LEAGUE

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I hereby make application for membership in The Free Press Defense League and I enclose \$..... as my contribution for the purposes of the League.

I understand that in consideration of this contribution, I am to receive a receipt and membership card signed by the president and secretary of the League. Also that after the first year I am to have a voice in the election of the officers of the organization.

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